

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 25, 2005 @ 4:30 p.m., Cal Brand Meeting Hall

PRESENT

Cindy Felsten
Ian Kohen
Jay Myers
Gil Palmer
Chrystal Pushor
Wes Roy
Marie Schroeder
Jason Staley
Barbara Stevens
Dick Underdahl-Peirce

ABSENT

Madhu Vedak

Chairperson Palmer called the meeting to order.

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, Secretary Lula Young.

Visitors present: Northside Teacher – Joie Ayala, Students from Northside Middle School Titan Team with parents and family members. Mayor's Cultural Awareness Committee members, Rob Aspy, Rudy Olivo & Wes Roy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Roll was called and minutes reviewed by Commissioner Schroeder. Commissioner Felsten requested correction to the April Minutes to reflect her absence. Commissioner Underdahl-Peirce moved to accept the minutes of the regular full commission meeting of April 27, 2005 with the noted correction. Commissioner Felsten seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Felsten reported annual dinner expenses of \$1,923.86; Deposits of \$2,373.75 leaving a month end balance of \$6,767.75, with approximately \$270.00 in outstanding receipts.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Commissioner Felsten successfully mediated a disability and sex discrimination in housing complaint. The complainant will be able to obtain housing that was previously denied, as well as other remedial considerations. Two additional complaints in Public

Accommodations involving National Origin & Race were settled. A new complaint of Sex in Employment alleging pregnancy discrimination was accepted. Thirteen cases have been successfully closed and/or mediated this year.

Director Tinsley informed commissioners of the class on 'Peer to Peer Harassment' that she would be teaching. Class participants can earn graduate credits. Class dates are June 7th and August 2nd, at the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Director Tinsley requested commissioner volunteers to assist Lt. Rudy Olivo as he facilitates group discussions for the Police Department during their implementation of the welcoming community project to look at how the police department is perceived by area minority groups. An additional volunteer was also requested for the August 13th Outreach picnic sponsored annually by the Church of God in Christ. Pastor Mike Harris has requested a booth from the Human Rights Commission with a display of relevant information and literature. Commissioners Felsten, Schroeder, Myers and Kohen volunteered for a 2-hour commitment to the police department to take and transcribe notes. Commissioner Staley volunteered tentatively for the Outreach picnic and will confirm at a future date. Commissioner Schroeder also voiced an interest in the picnic contingent upon her availability.

OTHER BUSINESS – Northside Titans' Human Rights Project:

Director Tinsley thanked commissioner volunteers who participated as judges and speakers for the Titan's Human Rights Interdisciplinary Project. Northside Middle School teacher and sponsor, Joie Ayala was introduced

Mrs. Ayala stated her goal is to provide students with an opportunity to get involved in the community. The fair is an interactive event designed to engage the community and eighth graders in discussions regarding human rights issues throughout American history and the effects on our community today.

Some of the topics explained by student presenters to the commission included: CHILD LABOR –Rebekah Hodnett, Debasree Ghosh and Adriana Bartolo; ABORTION1 (most informative) – Amelia Hodnett; RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION/QUAKERS – Woody Joyner; ABORTION2 – Jacob Clark; TREATMENT OF MENTALLY ILL (most creative) – Erin Truman; WOMEN'S RIGHTS – Caitlin Sharp; CHILD ABUSE – Chelsey Lane, Amelia Hodnett; SEGREGATION (Human Rights Commission Humanitarian Award Winners) – Alex Abedian, Jacob Waltermire, Nathan Laswell.

ADJOURN:

It was moved and seconded. Meeting adjourned.